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FRAME-UP: The Martin Luther King/James Earl Ray Case Containing Suppressed Evidence. Postscript by James Earl Ray. Harold Weisberg. Outerbridge (Dutton, dist.), $10

Weisberg sprang into national prominence with his book "Whitewash," about the Warren Report. Here, in massive detail, he describes his investigations into what he calls the "framing" of James Earl Ray as the murderer of Martin Luther King in 1968. It is an extraordinarily gripping book. Weisberg attempts to get at the actual evidence that would have, he says, been presented and tested by cross-examination—with results unfavorable to the prosecution—had there been what he defines as a full-scale trial of Ray instead of the "minitrial" that took place March 10, 1969. He contends that Ray did not shoot King, but was the decoy for the actual criminals.

This review can barely suggest the detailed number of Weisberg's charges, speculations, freshly documented evidence and revelations about the King murder. In two areas he is pure TNT: his attack on Ray's lawyer, Percy Foreman, and Bradford Huie as "scavengers" and his sensational head-on assault on J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI and the government itself for what he claims was suppressing of official evidence indicating Ray was not alone in the King assassination. Crank or supersleuth, Weisberg, for all his turgid writing has brought forth a blistering book.